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THOMAS & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

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6th Dec - 19th Dec 2000
Fortnightly
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Really Useful Reading with...

THOMAS & FRIENDS™

Welcome

... to the world of Thomas and his friends. Thomas is ready to take your child on a special journey of learning and discovery.

Stories and activities involving all your child's favourite Thomas characters encourage active reading and participation, stimulate the imagination and teach basic moral and social issues.

All of the elements in this magazine are based on the findings of academic research.

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a story to read

8. Look and See
things to spot in a big picture

10. Picture Present
a rebus picture story

12. Colouring Fun
a great picture of Bertie to colour

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a picture to pull out and keep

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tell the story in the right order

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your letters, drawings and photos

ABC

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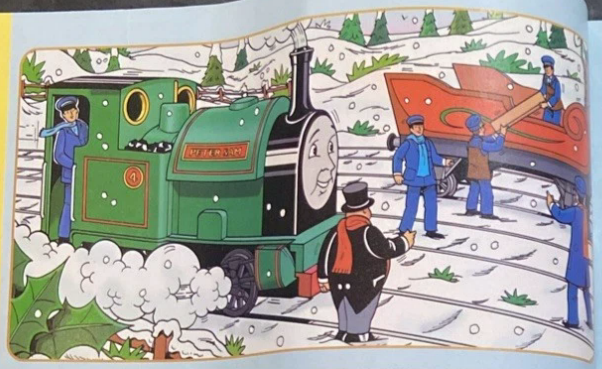
fun to read together

Reindeer Rescue!

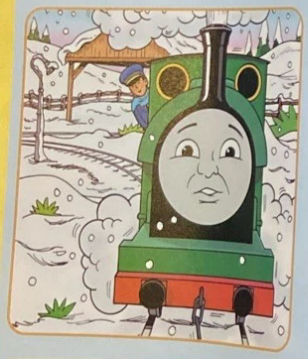
1. One evening, before Christmas, snow fell silently on the little engines' shed. "Santa will soon be here on a sleigh pulled by all his reindeer," said Sir Handel.

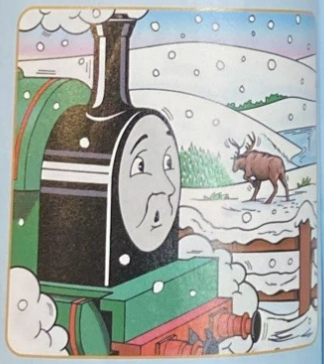
2. Peter Sam listened late into the night as Sir Handel told him more about Santa's fine, gentle reindeer, with their big antlers and collars of jingling bells.



3. When Peter Sam fell asleep, he dreamt of Santa's sleigh and the reindeer. Next day, he saw men in the snowy yard building a model sleigh on an old truck.

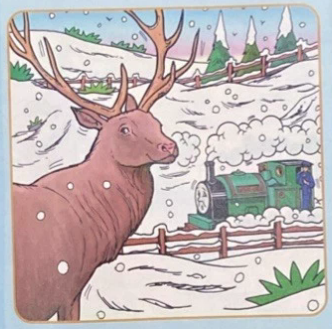
4. The Fat Controller came to see how they were getting on. "I must choose an engine to pull Santa's Sleigh Special and help deliver some presents," he said.

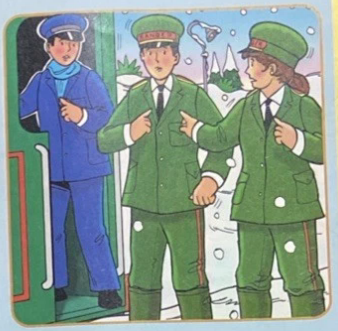




5. All the little engines wanted to do such an important job. "I don't suppose I'll be picked," sighed Peter Sam sadly. Soon he set off to collect some trucks.

6. As Peter Sam puffed steadily past the white hills and frozen lakes of Sodor, he spotted a big animal he had never seen before. "Look!" he called to his driver.





7. "What is it?" asked Peter Sam. "That's a reindeer!" replied the driver, in surprise. Peter Sam could not believe his eyes. "It must belong to Santa!" he gasped.

8. But at the next station, there were two rangers from the Sodor Country Park. "One of our reindeer herd has escaped," they explained. "We have to find it."

9. "I can take you!" cried Peter Sam. After he was coupled to his trucks, he carried the rangers back along the line. They saw the reindeer's tracks in the snow.

10. The rangers rescued the lost reindeer while Peter Sam waited. The tired reindeer was pleased to be fed and go home. Peter Sam proudly took it part of the way.

11. He could hardly wait to tell the other engines. Shortly, the sleigh truck was ready. Everyone agreed Peter Sam should pull it for being a Really Useful Engine.

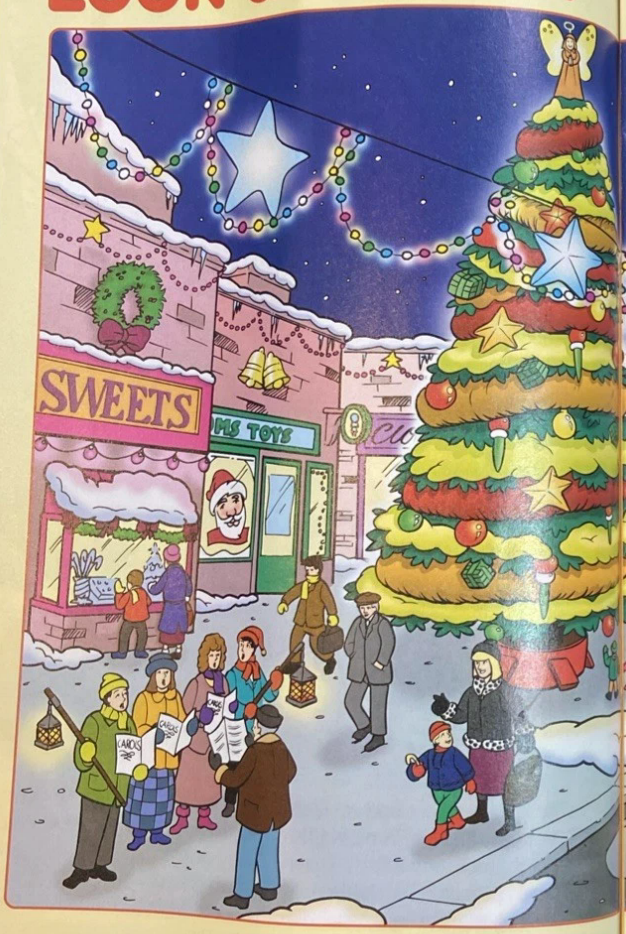
12. The Fat Controller dressed up as Santa. "The real Santa's so busy he needs our help," he said. "But I don't look anything like a reindeer," replied Peter Sam.

13. The Fat Controller had an idea. At last, he and Peter Sam set off. The sleigh truck was full of Christmas presents for children living along the line.

14. They cheered when Santa's Sleigh Special arrived. Now Peter Sam wore bells and huge, model antlers. "Peep! I'm Santa's reindeer engine!" he whistled.

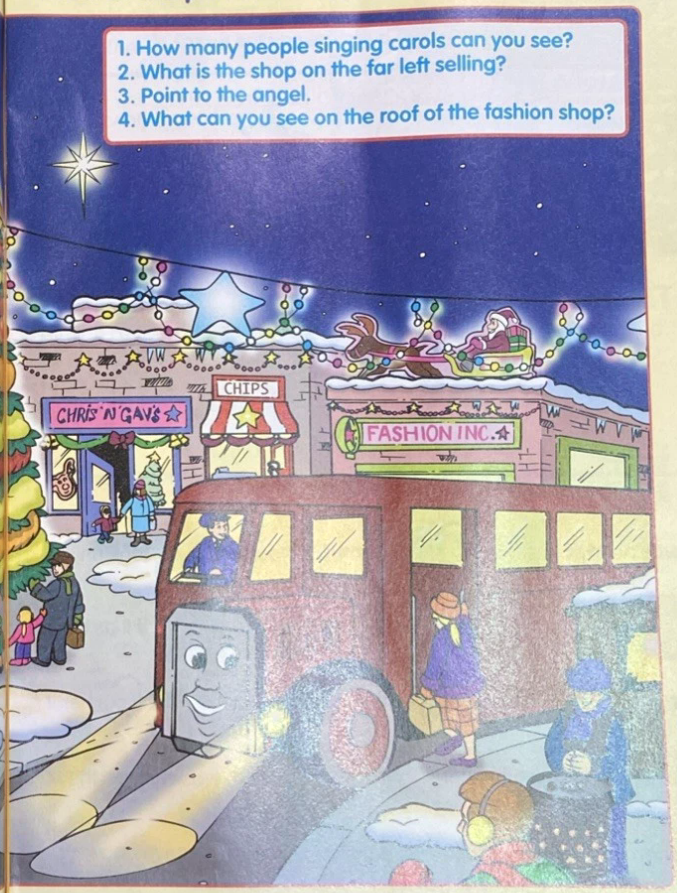
The End

Look and See!



Bertie is taking people late-night shopping!
Look at the picture. What can you see?

1. How many people singing carols can you see?
2. What is the shop on the far left selling?
3. Point to the angel.
4. What can you see on the roof of the fashion shop?



Answers: 1. five 2. sweets 3. at the top of the tree 4. Father Christmas and his sleigh

Rusty's rebus story

Picture Present

Trace over the words below. Then read the story, when you see a picture say the word!

The words made into pictures are...

present

brushes

Thomas

snow

artist

picture

robin

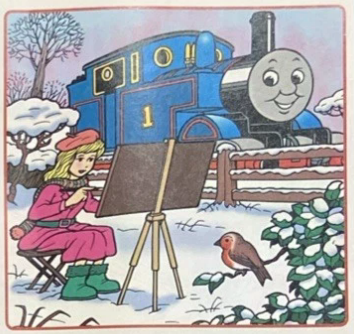
bush

scarf

paints

It was nearly Christmas. lay on the ground. took an to a country station. She wanted to paint a of it as a Christmas for a friend. At the station, the took out her canvas, an easel, plus some and . It was chilly on the platform so the stationmaster brought her a hot cup of tea.

Meanwhile, set off again. The was about to start work when her blew away. She chased after it.



The landed in the station car park. Suddenly, the spotted a little bird with a red face and chest. "It's a !" she thought. It flew into a , looking for berries to eat, at the end of a nearby garden. The had an idea and quietly fetched her and . By the time Thomas returned, the had finished. "A of the station in the will make a lovely Christmas ," said . How surprised he was to see the had painted the instead. "That's an even prettier !" she smiled.

The End

Colouring Fun

Use your crayons to colour this splendid picture of Bertie and Harold!

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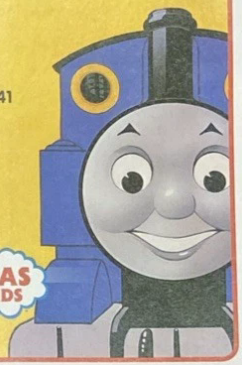

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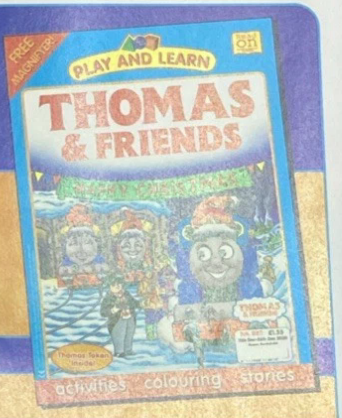


COMPETITION

3 Thomas Pop-Up Train Sets to be won!

Heart Character Toys are giving away three **Thomas Pop-up Train Sets** to be won by lucky Thomas readers!

For your chance to win just tell us

Which engine is number 11?

(a) Gordon (b) Oliver (c) Douglas

Write your answer on a postcard along with your name and address.

Thomas #344 Pop-up Train competition, Heart Character Toys, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, West Midlands, WS9 9LR

The closing date for this competition is 22nd December, 2000.

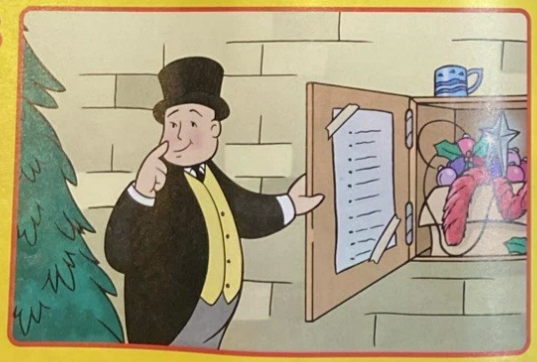
Heart Character Toys stock over 250 Thomas products in their mail order catalogue. For your free copy, call 01543 377182, quoting reference 344 or write to them at the competition address opposite.

This competition is open to all Thomas readers other than employees of participating companies and their families. We cannot accept responsibility for any entries that are lost in the post. Please obtain permission from a parent or guardian before entering this competition. Entries are limited to one winner per household.

Story puzzle

1

3

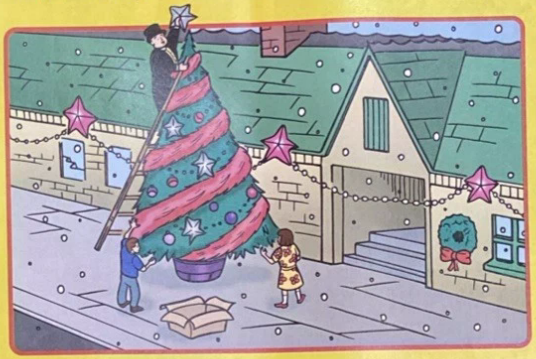


The right order is

answer: 3, 1, 4, 2

Write the numbers of these pictures below to show which order they should go in. Then tell the story yourself.

2



4

Who put the star on the tree?

answer: The Fat Controller

Thomas' rhyme time!

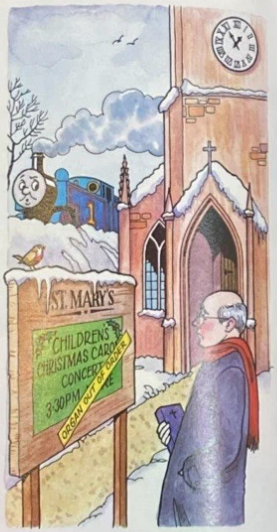
Christmas Whistles

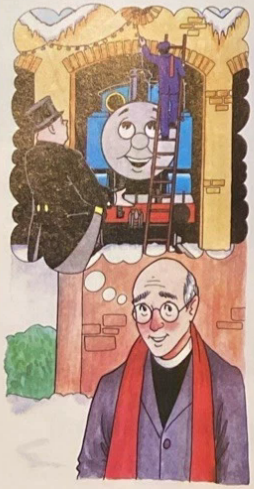
It was Christmas day on Sodor,
snow was thick upon the ground.

The church was cold and silent
for the organ made no sound.

Its big old pipes were frozen
and the vicar was in despair.

"We will have to move the concert
but I really don't know where!"



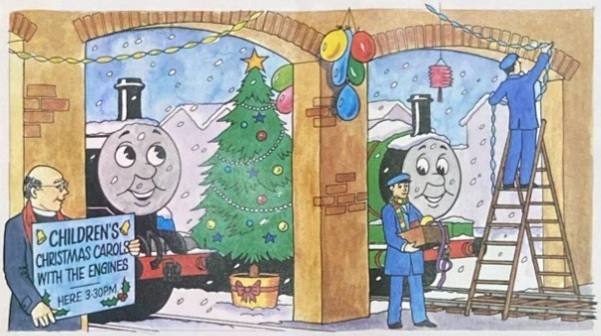


Just as he was thinking
that there could not be a way

To find another place
to have a concert on that day,

A really bright idea
popped into the vicar's head.

He'd ask Sir Topham Hatt
if he could use the engine shed!

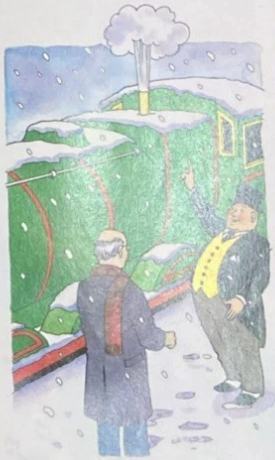


The engines were delighted,
they thought it such a thrill,

And their drivers and their firemen
set to with much goodwill

To put up decorations
and a pretty Christmas tree

Before the concert started
in their shed at half past three.

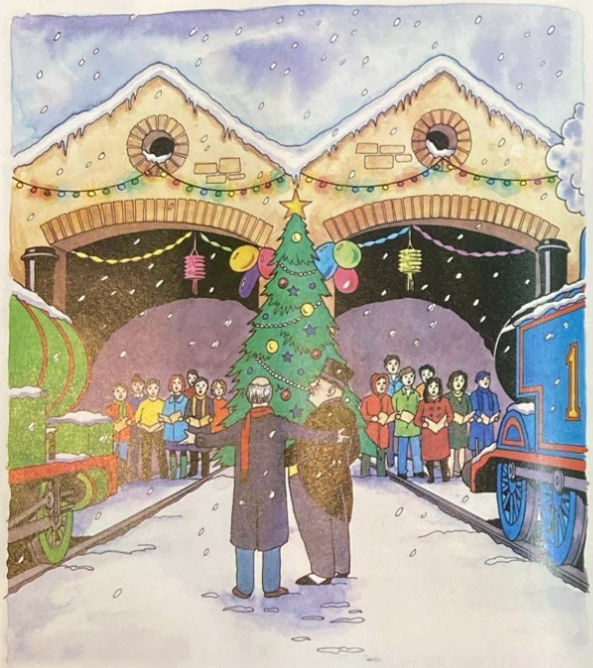


"Oh, but I forgot the music!"
cried the vicar with a start.

Sir Topham Hatt just smiled and said,
"Now that's the clever part!

My engines all have whistles
and each one's a different note,

A steam organ for the carols,
well that really wins my vote!"



So the children sang their carols
and their voices swelled with sound

And accompanying whistles
could be heard from all around.

The engines were so happy
to have helped in such a way,

And the vicar was delighted,
it just made his Christmas day.

The End

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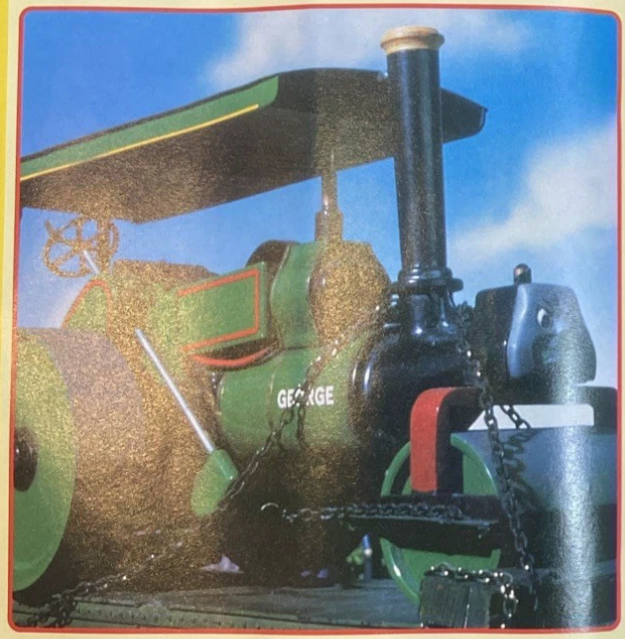
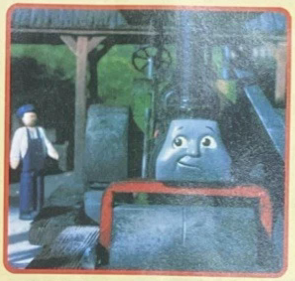
All about George



George is a grumpy fellow – and no friend of the railway engines. "Railways are no good. Pull 'em up. Turn 'em into roads," is his opinion. And he spends his time doing just that.



Win a model of George!

10 lucky readers can win a splendid model of George from the Racing Champions engine range. ERTL

Just tell us:
What colour is George?

Write your answer on a postcard along with your name and address and send it to: Thomas/3 Division, Lothenbach Sonnenstrasse 1st, PO Box 22087, Lothenbach, WC1N 1XZ.

Closing date: 22nd Dec 2000

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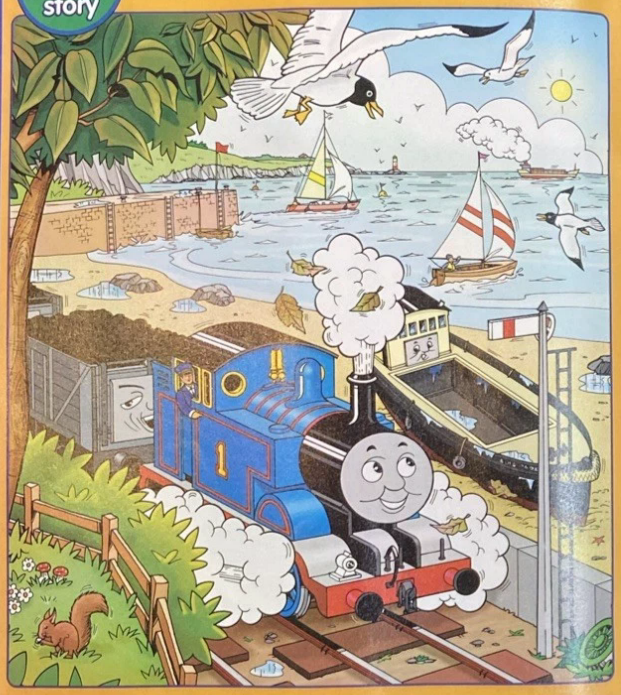
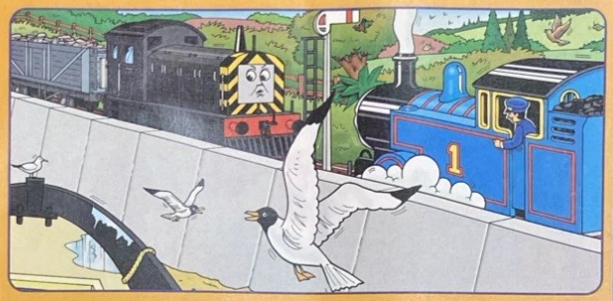
Percy's bedtime story

Pirate Passengers!



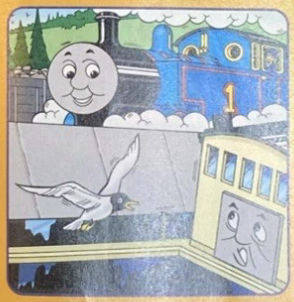
1. Thomas had collected some heavy trucks from the Big Harbour. As he puffed along the coast, he had to wait at a signal. Nearby, Bulstrode lay on the beach.

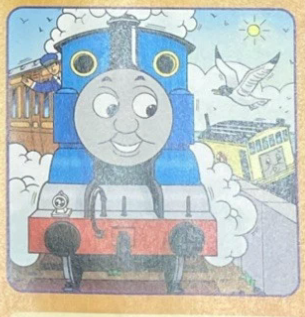
2. The old barge was a special attraction there. But he had a big hole in his hull and couldn't float. "Hello, Bulstrode," Thomas puffed loudly. "How are you today?"



3. "Bored, as usual!" growled the grumpy barge. "When I was working, I could chug up and down with a load of coal like that, all day." Just then Mavis arrived .

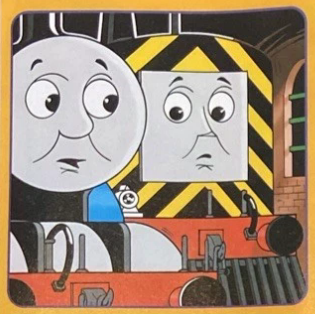
4. She was delivering stone from the quarry. Workmen would use it to strengthen the harbour wall. "Phew! This is heavy work!" she gasped. But Bulstrode just laughed.



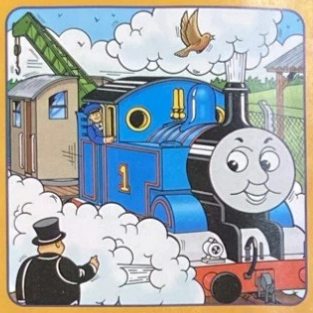


5. "You should have seen how much stone I could carry!" he boasted. "It was easy-peasy!" Mavis frowned and rolled on her way, closely followed by Thomas.

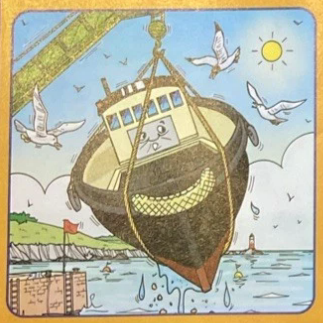
6. Later, Thomas pulled Annie and Clarabel on the seaside line. He had to stop by Bulstrode again. "I bet you never carried many people," teased Thomas.



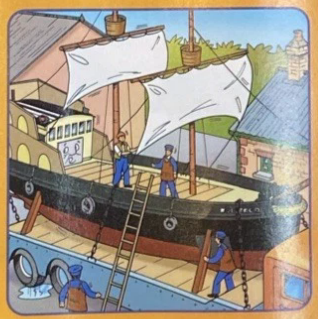
7. "Pah! I could, if only I had the chance," sulked the old barge. That night, in the engine shed, Thomas and Mavis felt sorry for poor old Bulstrode.



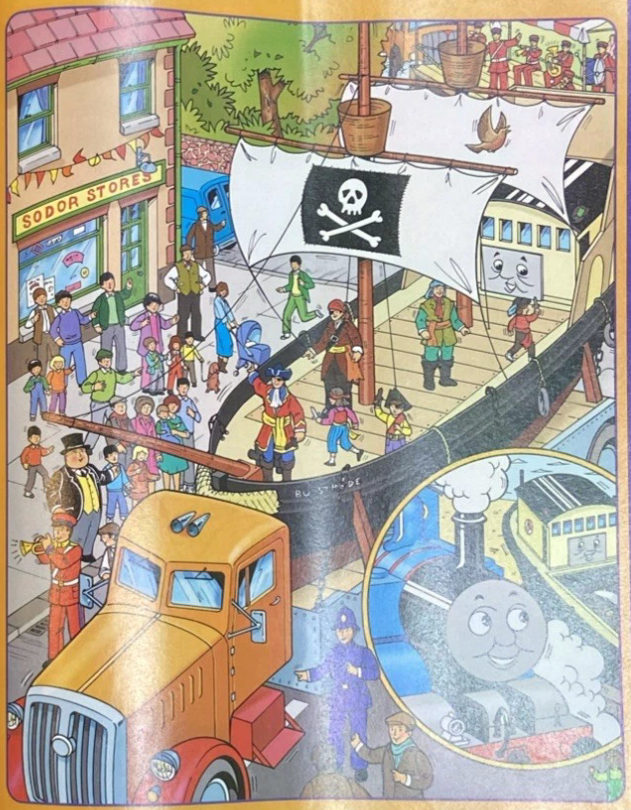
8. Next day, the engines heard the Sodor Carnival would be held at the weekend. Thomas had an idea and he told The Fat Controller all about it...



9. "Where am I going? Put me down!" yelled Bulstrode a little later. "Not if you want to set sail again," smiled Thomas, and he took the barge to the Works.



10. Carnival day arrived and the newly-mended Bulstrode was lifted onto a lorry to ride in the parade. He had been made to look like an olden-day ship.



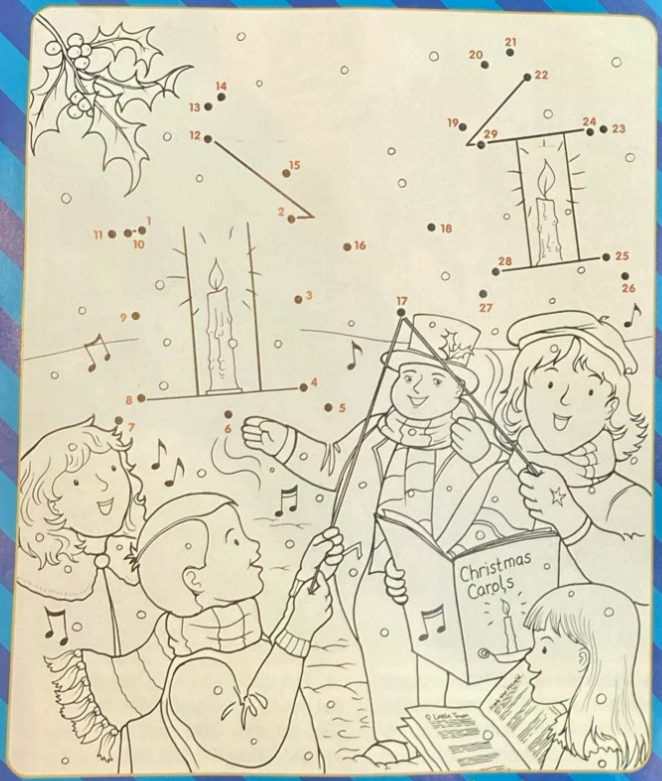
11. His crew wore pirate costumes, with boots and big, brass buckles. Bulstrode had a wonderful time! Afterwards, Thomas took him back to the beach.

12. Bulstrode felt much happier. But now he boasted all the more. "Ha! You may carry people," he laughed, happily. "But not even you've carried pirate passengers!"

The End

Dot to Dot!

Join the dots to complete this Christmas picture.



Now use your crayons to colour in the picture!

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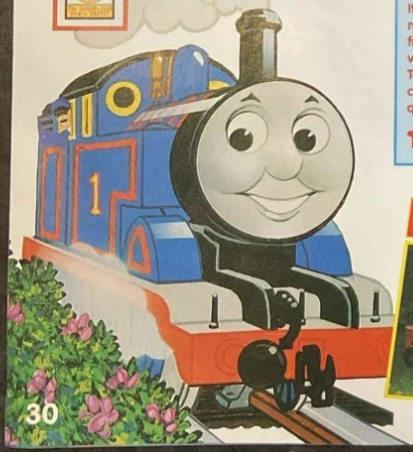
Collect them to earn great rewards including FREE Thomas collectable posters. You can even save up to 50% on selected items from the Thomas Catalogue, the UK's largest selection of Thomas goodies.
Get your collector's card today! Simply call 01403 242727 or write to Thomas Tokens, PO Box 143, Norwich RH13 5FJ.

Thomas Token

Ask an adult to cut out the token for you!



Star Poem

Lee Doorbar, aged 9, wrote this rhyme for his brother Keane, aged 2.

Thomas rides along the tracks
With Percy, Gordon and James
They try to stop those silly trucks
From playing naughty games
Harold is flying in the sky
Watching the trains below
And in the yard The Fat Controller
Stops to say "hello"!

If we print your Star letter or rhyme, you will receive a £10 voucher to spend on any items from the Official Thomas Catalogue, packed with Thomas goodies! To obtain a free copy, call 01403 242727 quoting reference FL.

TOMY.

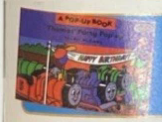
Kallum Warne, aged 3.

James Bland, aged 3.

A lovely picture of Thomas, by Rachael Hammill, aged 10.

Thomas Hayes, aged 6, has drawn his own Thomas and the Magic Railroad poster!

Bertie the Bus, by Angharad Davies, aged 4.



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a copy of Thomas' Party Pop-Up book from Egmont Children's Books.

Happy birthday!

To
Abigail King, aged 3,
Daniel Tremoceiro, aged 3,
Nathan Kirby, aged 3,
Israel Thierrault, aged 5,
Alexander Moxon, aged 3,
Billy Smith, aged 4,
Daniel Needham, aged 4,
Kyle Walters, aged 5,
Luke Hardwicke, aged 6,
Ryan Huddlestone, aged 6,
Liam Fairhurst, aged 4,
Kieran Stretch, aged 2,
Martin Body, aged 4,
Sean Thomson, aged 5,
Thomas Forward, aged 4,
Kieran Horton, aged 3,
Danny Smith, aged 5,
Fox Waudby, aged 4,
Logan Waudby, aged 1,
Thomas Fearn, aged 4,
Jason Finch, aged 7,
Jack Prince, aged 4,
Gavin Wilkie, aged 5.

Remember to send in your details 4 months before your birthday to be sure it will be printed on time.

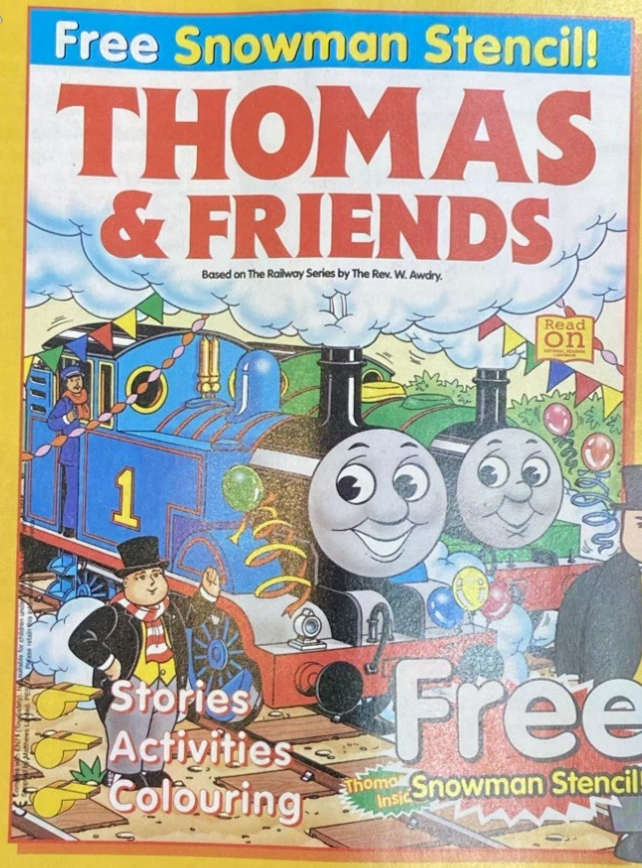
Michael McGoran, aged 5.

James Forder, aged 2.

James Ashford, aged 3

Joseph & Emma Clark.

Next issue!



Stories to Read • Rhymes and Songs
Puzzles and Activities • Prizes to win
Plus a Thomas token to collect!

Issue 345 on sale from 20th December 2000!